

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 9, 1995

Published Since 1877

## Ministers, churches in for change as tax filing season approaches

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP) — Churches and ministers are in for several significant changes in tax law as the season approaches for income tax preparation.

That's according to Richard Hammar, a CPA and an attorney in Springfield, Mo., who is author of the Annuity Board's 1995 tax guide and author of the annual *Church and Clergy Tax Guide*.

One key ruling by the U.S. Tax Court established a seven-factor test to determine whether a minister should file income taxes as an employee or as a self-employed person.

That's an important issue, Hammar noted, because a minister who is audited may be in for additional taxes, interest, and penalties if the tax return is filed incorrectly.

If a pastor has received Form W-2 from his church and reports that income on Line 7 of Form 1040 this year, then he is likely filing correctly as an employee.

Most pastors have a "dual status" when filing their annual tax returns:

— On the one hand, they are self-employed for Social Security purposes, because they do not have Social Security withheld from their paychecks. Instead they pay their own self-employment tax, which is calculated on Schedule SE.

— On the other hand, they are employees for purposes of income tax, which is calculated mostly on Form 1040. Although pastors are employees for income tax purposes, they are eligible for such tax

breaks as housing allowance.

Further, unlike the average taxpayer employee in America, most pastors do not have federal income tax withheld from their paychecks. Instead, they pay quarterly tax estimates to the IRS.

According to Hammar, the seven factors established by the tax court to determine whether a minister should file as an employee for income tax purposes are:

1) The degree of control exercised by the church over the details of the minister's work. If a church has the right to determine how a minister performs work for the church, such as the manner of conducting worship, then the minister is most likely an employee, Hammar said.

2) Whether the minister provides his own office or whether the office is in a facility provided by the church. "In other words," Hammar said, "who paid for the church where your office is?" The Internal Revenue Service sees a church-provided office as evidence the minister is probably an employee.

3) The opportunity for profit or loss. "Are you going to be realizing a profit or loss based on the success of the church?" Hammar said. If a minister could be terminated because of declining church receipts, then most likely the minister is an employee — not self-employed.

4) Whether the employer has the right to discharge the worker. Hammar noted most churches have the right to dismiss their ministers, and that fact indicates the

ministers are employees.

5) Whether the work is part of the church's regular business. Most likely, Hammar said, most staff ministers would be seen as employees, since their functions are necessary to the ongoing work of the church.

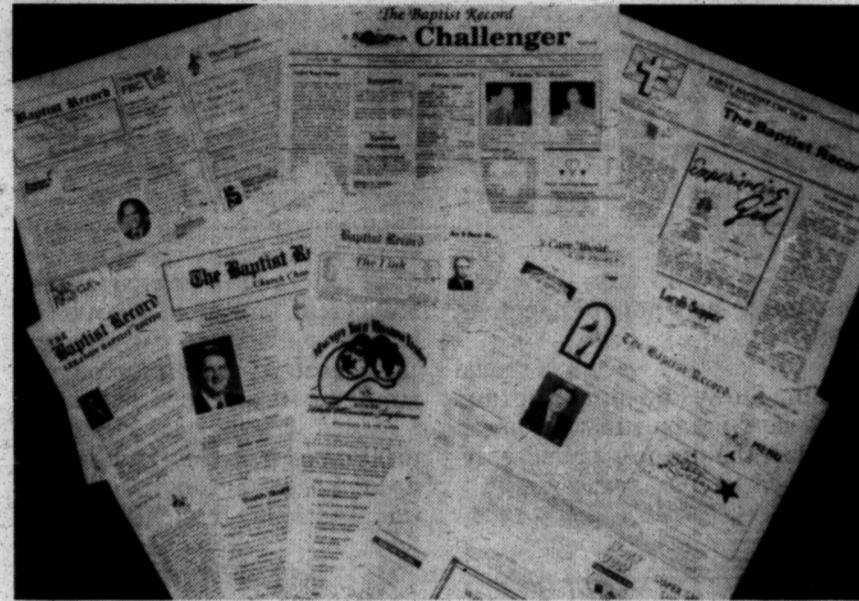
6) The permanency of the relationship between the church and minister. "In other words, how long has the minister served at the church?" Hammar said. "The longer the minister has served, the more likely he will be considered an employee."

7) The relationship the parties believe they are creating. Does the church regard the minister as an employee, and does the minister regard the church as employer? If so, said Hammar, then the minister is probably an employee.

Based on the seven-factor test, Hammar believes most Southern Baptist pastors should classify themselves as employees when filing their 1994 tax returns.

Another key issue in determining a minister's proper tax status is fringe benefits, Hammar said. "The tax court was clear that the question of whether one is an employee or self-employed will often depend on the number of fringe benefits provided by the employer," he said.

"The more fringe benefits, the more likely the worker is an employee. If you have health insurance, life insurance, retirement, and paid vacation from a church, these are the kinds of fringe benefits given to an employee," Hammar said.



*More news for your buck...*

## Baptist Record front page helps solve bulletin woes

Keeping church members informed is vital. Sure, they hear the announcements... if they attend. With illnesses, vacations, and other reasons for not attending, probably less than half of your resident members are in church on a given Sunday.

This absenteesim means you need a mailout. The mailout or bulletin calls for a secretary's time, paper, envelopes, not to mention postage. Have you noticed the huge postage rate increase? Your rates have jumped sharply and could well go up again soon.

Put the pencil to it. Just how much does it cost to produce your mailout?

Is there a better plan? We believe there is.

The *Baptist Record* can sell you its front page for \$55 per week. This includes printing and steep mailing cost. Our staff will even help train you to produce it and get it to the printer on time and... Voila! It's done.

This is church news with a personal style and flair. The cost is economical. You choose the Every Family Plan — **The Baptist Record**, with your church news, goes into the home of every family in your church.

This plan serves both small and large churches. It will cost very little to call and find out what your church could be saving on the plan.

Call Renee Walley at (601) 968-3800, or toll free (800) 748-1651. — GH

### TV ads costly, but fruitful

Churches that believe television advertising is a budget-buster could be passing up an opportunity to reach people who don't respond to other types of appeals, according to the advertising planner at the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville. Woody Murray, an advertising agency vice-president before joining BSSB in 1991, points out that many good deals are available in TV time slots that don't sell quickly. Rates are low in January after the big Christmas promotions have played out, Murray said. "January is also cold weather in many places and audience levels are up while prices are down," he explains. Murray also suggests churches buying TV ads target specific audiences on popular stations that reach those audiences. "You can't afford to reach everybody. Decide and focus on that group," he emphasizes. Murray also warns against depending on public service announcements (PSA) for air time. Many stations get more PSAs than they can broadcast, and some stations don't allow references to Jesus. "If you're relying on public service time to be your only form of promotion, it is pretty risky," he says.

### Church giving decreases

Church members are going into debt to purchase more luxury items while cutting back on the percentage of income they contribute to their churches. That is the conclusion of researchers John and Sylvia Ronvalle in "The State of Church Giving," an annual report prepared with assistance from the Lilly Endowment. The Southern Baptist Convention was one of the Protestant groups surveyed in the report. The Ronvalles found that total member contributions to church causes lost ground to inflation in 1992 for the second consecutive year — the first back-to-back declines in 25 years. Hardest hit was support for missionaries, which decreased 1.8% while support for local church needs increased by 24%. Protestant missionary-sending organizations have experienced flat contributions since 1987, collecting about \$2 billion. In the same time period, Americans spent \$4 billion on crafts, \$32 billion on diets, and \$40 billion on leisure travel. Although the decline in giving is evident in all religious groups studied, the trend is more pronounced in mainline churches than in evangelical churches, the Ronvalles reported.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

More than 200 people attend the dedication of Scott Association's new building in Forest. The new facility includes office space, workroom, kitchen, library/media center, and conference area.

#### 20 years ago

John H. Traylor Jr., pastor of First Church, Gulfport, provides the opening prayer for the U.S. House of Representatives session in Washington, D.C. He is the first Mississippian to do so since Chester Swor in March 1971.

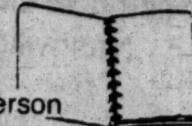
#### 50 years ago

Calvary Church, Jackson, is one of the first churches in the Southern Baptist Convention to establish a Story Hour Department under the new Southern Baptist program to provide a special Training Union time for young children.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Thursday, February 9, 1995

Guy Henderson



## Retirement is booming

Is it time for churches, associations, and the state convention to consider a retirement ministry in Mississippi? This is not to imply that many ministries are being short-changed. The passing of time spotlights the need. The longevity revolution is in fast-forward, and *Newsweek* (Oct. 4, 1993, issue) called this decade the "Gray Nineties."

The over-65 group of Americans make up only 13% of the nation's population today, yet one-third of all health care money is spent by or for this group. There are 6,000 new 65-year-olds every day... and baby boomers will cause that figure to double in a few years.

Richard Sprott of the National Institute on Aging sees the possibility of creating a disaster if we lengthen the lifespan to 150-year-olds who have to spend 40 years in a nursing home. The cost today

is \$49 billion for the 1.6 million elderly in nursing homes.

"Honor thy father and mother," the Bible says, and the apostle Paul is careful in giving instructions in 1 Timothy 5, declaring: "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (v. 8).

In spite of these admonitions, there are elderly people who are victims of physical abuse, neglect, psychological abuse, violation of personal rights, and — perhaps worst of all — victims of the lack of respect. This year, says the *Herald of Holiness*, 70,000 old persons will become victims of the "Red tail-light syndrome" — abandonment.

Much is being said to address this subject and a lot is being done. Research, long-range studies, and some good minds are

involved. Across the SBC, many of our states have retirement facilities. Florida has one; Georgia, two; Kentucky, one; Louisiana, one; Missouri, two; Oklahoma, three; Tennessee, two; South Carolina, one; and Texas, six. These facilities are mostly financed by the residents, wills and gifts, special offerings, tax-exempt bonds, and some with Cooperative Program money.

This is often a need to which we say: "If there is anything left over, we will begin a ministry." Several of our churches have extension ministries in helping shut-ins, widows, home-bounds, etc. We need to be alert to the fact that the aging population is as much a mission opportunity as any other. Perhaps it is time for our convention to take a long, hard look at a growing but neglected area. It's fraught with dangers, but so is all mission work.

## Guest Opinion...

## God can bless, even multiply efforts to share the good news

By Greg Potts

In the spring of 1994, a young man in Vancleave agreed to coach a T-ball team for the local baseball league. At the time, he, his wife, and children were not attending a church. He selected two young men for his team who attended First Church, Vancleave, with their parents. Little did he know how God was about to move in his life.

The parents of these two boys began inviting and encouraging the coach and his wife to attend our church. It was several weeks before they responded to the invitation. Why did they do so? It was due to a crisis in their lives.

Crisis is often the window of opportunity in which the Lord works to lead many people to Jesus. As this young couple went through their crisis, they felt the need to get back into church. At that time, due to the invitation of two young families, they were aware of First Church, Vancleave. They responded to the invitation.

After attending for several

weeks, this young couple joined our church. They became involved, began attending Sunday School, and brought their children. It was encouraging to see that the Lord still blesses a simple invitation. But that is not quite the end of the story...

The coach and his wife invited their sister-in-law to attend with them. I visited her to follow up on the needs that might exist

This woman then invited her sister-in-law, who attended worship the following Sunday. When I followed up with her, I learned she also was not saved. One evening in her home, she and her oldest daughter prayed and invited Jesus into their hearts. They made their professions of faith public in church the next Sunday.

Thus far, seven individuals had united with our church as a result

of one invitation, five of those by profession of faith. This was still not the end of the story.

One Sunday evening, several members of this family attended worship for their baptismal service. During the invitation, the husband of one woman who was baptized came forward, weeping. It is difficult for me to describe how great a step it was for this man. I had known him and talked with him. This decision had not come easily for him.

He came forward and embraced me, saying through tears, "This is where I need to be." He had struggled with this decision because he was afraid to

in her life. As I talked with her, it became apparent that she was not a Christian. That evening she prayed and invited Jesus into her heart.

The following Sunday she made public her profession of faith. She then brought her two sons to our Vacation Bible School. They also made professions of faith. Thus far, five members had united with our church, and three of those were by profession of faith — all as a result of a simple invitation at a ball game.

And the truth shall make you free!

(John 8:32)



Observe Race Relations Sunday

February 12, 1995

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention



## THE FRAGMENTS

## Shrinking the feds

It was Clifford Goldstein, editor of *Liberty Magazine*, who shared this story:

"Years ago, when a group of conservative Christian businessmen gathered at a meeting, the speaker asked, 'How many of you men would like to see prayer reinstated in public schools?' Instantly, hands shot up along with a litany of 'Amen!' 'Down with separation!' 'Let our children pray!' When the saints calmed, the speaker then asked, 'How many of you men pray with your children at home?'

"The response: dead silence."

If we are all for shrinking the federal government in size, scope, and influence, then why are we trying to get it involved in our prayer life? It's been called a socialized welfare — sort of a spiritual food stamp.

Nothing prohibits students praying before, during, or after school. By all means, let's teach our boys and girls to "pray everywhere" without ceasing, but we don't need the help of Congress, prayer amendments, or the use of taxpayers' money and legislators' time to promote the "free exercise of religion." — GH

leave his family church, but he knew that he was doing what the Lord wanted him to do.

As I reflected on all of this, it amazed me how God was still working. He is still on his throne, still moving in a great way. God still blesses the gospel when it is shared, or blesses an invitation when it is offered. People are hurting and looking for hope, love, and direction. Jesus provides us with all of that. We have the answer — will we share it?

As we get well into the new year, we are challenged to share our faith for 60 straight days, in preparation for the "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals. I trust you will take seriously the biblical

command to share your faith. After all, there is a biblical precedent. The Bible says in John 1:40-41, "One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own brother Simon, and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which translated means Christ)."

Just as Andrew brought people to Jesus, we should do the same. Why not begin now, making a commitment to lead others to Jesus?

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave. He is also Uniform series Sunday School lesson commentary writer for THE BAPTIST RECORD.

## The Baptist Record

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# CBF '94 receipts barely top '93; "real dollars" continue to grow

ATLANTA (ABP) — Contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship totaled about \$11 million last year, slightly more than 1993, according to figures released by the organization Jan. 31.

The 1994 year-end totals stand in stark contrast to the rapid growth of Fellowship funds in recent years — up 53% in 1993 and 62% in 1992. The \$10,955,213 contributed in 1994 is about one tenth of 1% more than the \$10,944,328 collected in 1993.

But Fellowship officials say the turnaround was expected after the June vote by the Southern Baptist Convention which

instructed its agencies not to accept contributions channeled through the Fellowship. Meanwhile, "real dollars" received for Fellowship use grew almost 20%, according to Cecil Sherman, coordinator for the Fellowship.

In recent years, more than a fourth of Fellowship funds have been forwarded to SBC agencies. By cutting off all SBC support from the Fellowship last June, Southern Baptist leaders hoped to isolate the Fellowship from the SBC mainstream or even force the Fellowship out of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Fellowship was estab-

lished by Southern Baptist moderates in 1990, first as a channel for churches and individuals to support selected SBC causes while bypassing agencies they felt were compromised when fundamental conservatives gained control of the denomination. The Atlanta-based Fellowship now funds its own missions program and a variety of independent ministries.

Of the \$11 million received by

the Fellowship in 1994, 83.2% was earmarked for the Fellowship and the ministries it supports (\$9,113,861). That's up from 66.2% in 1993 (\$7,243,791).

Meanwhile, SBC agencies received \$983,760, or 9.0% of the total, most of it dispersed before the June action. That's down from 27% in 1993. Another \$367,387 in SBC-bound funds received after the June vote was applied to the

Fellowship's global missions program.

Most of the Fellowship's own money is spent on its mission work in the United States and abroad. In 1994 \$5.9 million was collected for missions, including \$2,552,732 contributed through the Fellowship's annual global missions offering. The Fellowship's missions program includes support of 52 missionaries.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

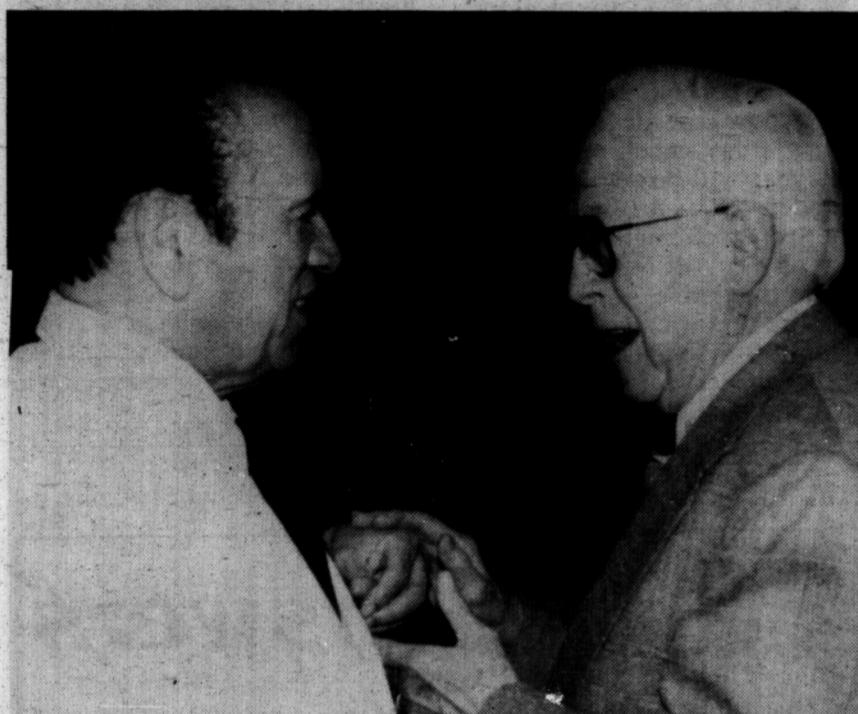
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## Southwestern trustee actions usher accreditor's probation



### Conference hosts big names

Retired Mississippi evangelist Howard Aultman (right) of Columbia greets evangelist Angel Martinez of Fort Smith, Ark., at the 1995 state evangelism conference held Jan. 30-31 at Temple Church in Hattiesburg. (See stories on page 5.) Martinez, who has been an evangelist for 60 years, addressed two sessions of the conference. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## WMU Feb. 12 collection to combat hunger across the United States

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Woman's Missionary Union members across the Southern Baptist Convention are making final preparations for local efforts in WMU's national "We Can Help" project for addressing hunger needs.

The national project's goal is to collect 1 million cans of food and \$250,000 by Feb. 12 to feed the hungry in the United States.

Many state WMUs, as well as church and associational organizations, have set goals toward making the national goal a reality. In addition, denominational agencies, such

as the Home Mission Board, and WMU, have established collection sites for canned goods at their national headquarters.

"We Can Help" is the focus of WMU's 1995 Project HELP: Hunger, a year-long emphasis designed to educate Southern Baptists about hunger needs in America and around the world.

The Feb. 12 gathering of canned goods plus \$.25 per can will be a tangible and easy way for every Southern Baptist, regardless of age, to be involved in meeting the needs of the hungry in their

communities, said Trudy Johnson, special projects coordinator for WMU.

Project HELP: Hunger is the first annual WMU national ministry project. Each year the project will be related to a social issue determined by the WMU executive board. The social issue in 1996 is AIDS.

For information on the ministry projects, contact Johnson at Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010; phone (205) 991-4972 or fax (205) 995-4840.

sympathetic to moderate Southern Baptists and was blocking conservative reforms at the 3,117-student school, the largest of the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries.

ATS, the school's primary accrediting agency, said the trustees acted within their authority last March when they fired President Russell Dilday, but they violated school procedures in their treatment of Dilday and other faculty members and allowed interference in the school's academic freedom.

Dilday was fired by conservative trustees who said he was too

Ken Hemphill, the seminary's new president, told faculty, staff, and students of the verdict Feb. 2 after receiving written notification from ATS. He said he is "disappointed" in the decision but noted Southwestern remains fully accredited during the two-year probation.

Most of the criticisms from ATS were directed at trustees, who had been in conflict with Dilday for several years over the direction of the school.

Southwestern was placed on probation, ATS said, because "the seminary's board of trustees has failed to exert consistent and disciplined efforts:

1) To provide for the regular and ongoing evaluation of the president;

2) To ensure that faculty appointment, promotion, and tenure decisions carefully correspond to published policies and criteria; and

3) To attend sensitively to the several constituencies and publics of the seminary, and to discharge its responsibility for the establishment, maintenance, and exercise of the institution's integrity and freedom from inappropriate external and internal pressures and destructive interferences or restraints."

Trustees fired Dilday despite giving him consistently positive annual evaluations. They also were accused of violating seminary policies by blocking election and promotion of faculty members who had ties to Southern Baptist moderates. And, according to seminary sources, several trustees harassed faculty members in letters challenging their teachings.

Southwestern has one month to file an appeal. Once all appeals are handled, ATS publishes its findings for all schools — usually in late March — said Nancy Merrill, ATS public relations director.

ATS is the professional accrediting agency that evaluates most accredited seminaries in the United States, including the six operated by the Southern Baptist Convention. All six likewise are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a more general agency that evaluates virtually all public and private schools in the South.

Southwestern, still reeling from the firing of its president last year and now facing a threat to its accreditation, enrolled 6% fewer students this spring.

Southwestern, the largest theological seminary in the world, registered 3,117 students for the spring term — 197 fewer than last spring. The school suffered a similar drop of 204 students last fall, at a time when enrollment at the other five Southern Baptist seminaries grew 7%.

### January CP gifts leap over '94

Mississippi Baptists gave \$2,139,669 through the Cooperative Program (CP) throughout the month of January 1995. That amount is a 6.9% increase over gifts made in January of 1994.

Mississippi had 1,885 churches, or 97.6% of all state Baptists churches, contributing to mission causes through the Cooperative Program last year. It continues to rank near the top in percentage of participating churches among state conventions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The CP is the way Mississippi Baptists support state, home, and foreign missions," said Barri A. Shirley, director of accounting and personnel services of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

### SBC CP receipts down 2 percent

NASHVILLE (BP) — Convention Cooperative Program receipts for January dropped 2.16% below that month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For January 1995, the total was \$13,946,164, compared to January 1994 of \$14,254,071, for a difference of \$307,907. The fiscal year-to-date (October through January) figure of \$48,441,082 is .37% below the previous year-to-date figure of \$48,621,957, or a difference of \$180,874.

However, the month's CP receipts were 22.57% above the required amount in the SBC program allocation budget and, for the year-to-date, receipts are 6.43% above the budget requirement to this point. The monthly budget requirement is \$11,378,310.

# Letters to the editor

## Whence forgiveness?

Editor:

Why do church members blame their dissatisfaction on the preacher, someone who said something you didn't like, or someone who hurt your feelings? When dissatisfaction comes, why don't we confess our wrong attitude to Jesus? Jesus was blamed unjustly for all sorts of things, yet he forgave us.

What has happened to forgiveness? Most folk, instead of forgiving the wrong done us, will leave the church and take that unforgiving spirit to another church and pretty soon, they are causing trouble there. And we wonder why churches have so many problems.

In our churches, most folk, when they are offended, usually have some sin in their lives they don't want to turn loose of. You wouldn't believe how many "church folk" are visiting the casinos. You may think no one knows about your sins, but believe me, more know about it than you think, and God knows about it ALL.

When the Word of God is preached and these people see their sins pin-pointed, they had rather blame someone for some little slight and leave the church than give up that sin.

I recently heard a preacher say, "If God has planted you in the church, stay there. Repent, be faithful, and you will be fruitful. You don't take a tree, plant it, and dig it up in 10 days and plant it somewhere else. If you do, it will eventually die." God called his people a stiff-necked people. This was because they refused to repent of their sins. Psalm 1:3 tells us what God wants us to be: "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of waters that bringeth forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Our churches will never be a witness in this unhappy world unless we as Christians quit blaming others and confess our sin and turn from it.

Name withheld by editor

## Applauds Mohler

Editor:

I read with great interest and appreciation the article by Albert Mohler Jr. titled "Preserving 'truth and conviction' Abstract of Principles provides theological accountability." Mohler is entirely correct in stating that those who teach in SBC institutions should be held accountable for what they teach. I know that some would like to hide behind academic freedom and wish to interpret the Bible according to their theological persuasion.

However, academic freedom does not give anyone the right to theological license in the name of freedom of conscience. There are clear teachings of the Bible that are propositionally and factually stated, such as the deity and humanity of Christ, his virgin birth, his substitutionary atoning work, his literal and bodily resur-

rection, and his literal and bodily return to this earth, that cannot be debated but must be affirmed.

During my theological education I have sat under more than one teacher in SBC institutions that have denied one or more of these foundational tenets of the Christian faith. I, therefore, applaud Mohler's position and pray that he will firmly stand for the "faith once delivered unto the saints" and "earnestly contend for the faith."

No, academic freedom does not justify theological license and Southern Baptists should not support such teachings with their SBC dollars.

Larry Smith, pastor  
West Philadelphia Church  
Philadelphia

## Election vs. freedom

Editor:

Did Southern Seminary President E.Y. Mullins (1899-1928) violate the Abstract of Principles as intended by the founders?

Boyce and Mullins held mutually exclusive positions on "Election," Article V of the Abstract, as apparent by comparing Boyce's *Abstract of Systematic Theology* (1987) and Mullins' *The Christian Religion in its Doctrinal Expression* (1917).

Boyce wrote: "... God, in eternity, when he elected some, did likewise not elect others; that as resulting from this non-election, but not as efficiently caused by it, he passes by these in the bestowment of the special favors to the elect..." (p. 356).

On pages 367-73, Boyce taught that we are to preach the gospel to all people (outward calling), even though God before creation chose to give "saving grace" to some, passing over others (effective calling).

Mullins taught "election" as "God's initiative in salvation" (p. 338), leaving the human will free (p. 334). He wrote, "God's grace is not 'irresistible'..." (p. 344). He argued that God is limited by human freedom and human sin, holding that if God violated human freedom in seeking to save, "We would cease to be persons and become things" (p. 348).

In his theology, was Mullins guilty of "a dishonest perversion of a contractual pledge" and "an act of consummate arrogance" as charged to others (*Baptist Record*, Jan. 19)?

"Article XVIII. Liberty of Conscience" reads: "God alone is Lord of the conscience; and he hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are in anything contrary to his Word, or not contained in it." Here I stand and believe that in this I follow Mullins.

Frank Stagg  
Diamondhead

## Seeking pastor

Editor:

Calvary Baptist Church, a congregation of 80 people located in

Naples, Italy (Europe), is in need of a pastor. The congregation is mainly connected with the American military. Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. If God is leading you to pastor in a mission setting, please contact Steven E. Rankin, NEPMU-7, PSC 810 Box 41, FPO AE 09619-4299.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Steven E. Rankin, chairman  
Pastor search committee

## God's "encouragers"

Editor:

I read with interest in the Mississippi Ministers Bulletin, *The Light*, an article, "Tis the Season for Encouragement," how at least five pastors were forced to leave their church during December. Ministers and lay persons should more quickly move to the side of our fellow-workers and their families, as many already have.

Over three years ago, the church I had faithfully pastored for four and a half years suddenly dismissed me. It was a surprise and a shock, and we had no place to go. Through God's wonderful leading, we happened upon a small flock of Spirit-led and God-loving people at Bethel Baptist Church, Holcomb, Miss.

Their pastor of over 30 years had his own home and their lovely parsonage was vacant, and they had been praying for a preacher to fill it. When we came along, they willingly took us under their loving watch-care. They have supplied our every need and more. Several years have passed and they have been one of the most blessed and rewarding experiences of our Christian lives.

The opportunities of our Christian ministry have expanded, and our hurts and wounds have healed, all because of the love of God working in the hearts of his wonderful people here at Bethel Church.

I would like to call all of their names, but not here. I do that before God's throne. I praise God for placing them in the pathway of my life. The world needs more examples such as this, which is God's kind of love. Amen!

Jack M. Kelly  
Holcomb

## Sermons available

Editor:

I have hundreds of printed sermons which I would be glad to mail to pastors and lay persons who might be interested in having them. They are in packets of 20 different sermons. These sermons were sent out to the television audience upon request during the 36 years I was pastor of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., and printing costs were paid for by their contributions. I hate to have them sitting around if they could be of help in

providing ideas or illustrations to others in the Lord's work.

If any of your readers would like a packet of these free sermons, write me at 144 Lucerne Blvd., Birmingham, AL 35209.

Edgar M. Arendall

## "Annie" approaches

Editor:

In just a short time Southern Baptists will be participating in the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and encouraged to give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. This ingathering of money and outpouring of prayer on behalf of the lost of our nation is unique among all denominations.

As was true in Annie Armstrong's day, much of the focus this year will be on the need to broaden our evangelistic vision. She led the women in the latter part of the 19th century to reach out to the native Americans and African Americans. Today our population, and therefore the needs, are far more diverse, with churches now worshiping in over 100 languages.

Diversity in every area of life calls for new and innovative

approaches which involve us all. Our theme for this year's Season of Home Missions is appropriately, "Win All," and is based on 1 Corinthians 9:22.

Our nation desperately needs to experience God's touch. How he longs to bring healing! He calls us to:

**Pray.** Never before has the power of prayer been so affirmed. "Ask and it shall be given unto you." What he has done in other areas of the world in response to prayer he longs to do in the U.S.

**Go.** Whether as a short- or long-term volunteer or as a career missionary through the Home Mission Board, we can all be "on mission" in our homeland.

**Give.** This year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$50 million is a reminder to Southern Baptists of God's blessings for 150 years as a denomination. Although the offering goal is challenging, it is also reachable.

The needs are urgent, the time is now. May we do what has never been done before in order to Win All for Christ.

Dellanna O'Brien  
Executive director  
Woman's Missionary Union



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

Is marital counseling effective if one partner refuses to participate?

The key word in counseling is not "participate." It is "work." Counseling is effective only when the person who is coming to counseling is willing to work at personal changes, rather than changing his/her partner. I must admit that change moves more quickly when both partners are participating. What is important, however, is the intensity of the person coming to counseling to make the necessary personal changes. These changes may be things like: Stop being a doormat. Cease nagging. Be more available. Be more attentive. Marriage is like a machine in that one part — one gear — that is changed or shifted can make the machine run differently and thus have an effect on the other parts in the system. Likewise, partners in a marriage may not realize something has shifted and needs to be changed until some action occurs that usually causes discomfort. Until this happens, the marriage will continue running as it has and will not experience the growth all marriages need to keep things fresh and alive.

My husband would rather

gamble than feed our children. I am ready to leave him. Where can I go?

Before you leave him, ponder this checklist:

— Have you talked with your husband, and does he know how serious you are about leaving? Does he believe you, or is this just an idle threat?

— Can your husband quit gambling, or is he addicted? Will he join Gamblers Anonymous or seek Christian counseling?

— Have you been to therapy or Al-Anon? This will help you find the support you need to keep going.

— What is God leading you to do as you pray about this situation?

— What are your options if you leave? Do you have the resources to take care of yourself and your family? Do you have someone with whom you can stay?

Like the person in the previous letter, you must make the changes you need to make or the system will continue as it is now. Leaving for a season may be the "wake-up call" your husband needs, but it could also backfire on you. Make sure you have thought out all the consequences of your decision to leave.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

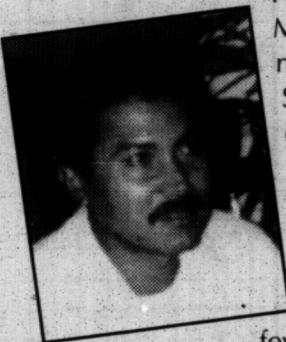
# HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 9, 1995

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## HONDURAS PARTNERSHIP ASSISTS PASTOR WITH PHYSICAL NEED



The Chain of Love through the Mississippi/Honduras Partnership made arrangements for Sergio Sanchez, pastor in Honduras, to come to Hattiesburg, Miss., and receive a hip replacement through the generosity of a local hospital and Dr. Richard Conn. A successful operation was performed and he returned home after a few weeks.

Sergio is one of the most successful pastors in the Honduras Convention. He works primarily with new churches and missions. When a church is not doing well, Sergio will work with it until there is improvement in all phases of church life. He also assists with new mission work in remote mountain areas.

Sergio was forced to resign all his work in January because of the hip. He could barely walk, and then it was with great pain. Since the operation, he is able to resume his work in the remote areas. God has used this pastor in many areas and, because of the goodness of the hospital and medical staff, he will be able to once again continue his work. □

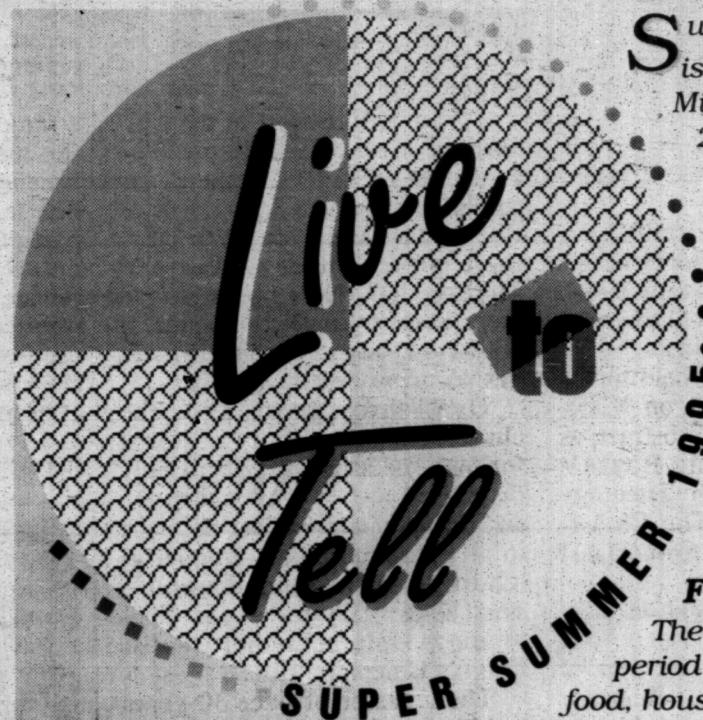
## HELP NEEDED IN COLD BAY

Mel Bartreau, pastor of Cold Bay Mission in Cold Bay, Alaska, has made a request for three men to come help with electrical work, roofing needs, door replacement and an entrance way enclosure. They will provide airfare from Anchorage to Cold Bay BC.

Please consider this request and, if interested or in need more information, contact the Partnership Missions Office at 1-800-748-1651, or write P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



**Mississippi/World Partnerships**



**S**uper Summer Mississippi is for the young person who is a mature and responsible Christian leader. Mississippi College is the host for Super Summer, July 24-28. Young people attending Super Summer Mississippi spend approximately 20 hours in evangelism and discipleship training. Quality youth leaders from our state lead our youth in study. Youth are trained in how to share their faith, how to have a quiet time, how to memorize scripture, how to find God's will for their lives, and more. They are also challenged and equipped to utilize their talents and penetrate their culture for Christ in creative and effective ways. Throughout Super Summer young people are encouraged to use the freedom they have in Christ to change the world.

### Financial Requirements

The total cost for Super Summer during the registration period is \$140 per student and adult; amount includes food, housing in the school dormitory, materials, and T-shirt.

### Guidelines for all SS candidates

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in Worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a Discipleship study (i.e. Survival Kit, DiscipleYouth, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 1995, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.

To request registration packets, contact **Discipleship & Family Ministry** at 1-800-748-1651, or send your name, church name and church mailing address to **Discipleship & Family Ministry, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530**.

**SMACK!**  
**M.A.C.**  
(Mississippi Acteens Convention)  
**Mississippi College • Clinton**  
**March 24-25, 1995**

want to have fun? want to celebrate?  
want to fellowship with other Acteens?  
You say, YES!!!! Well, **M.A.C.** is where you  
need to be March 24-25.

contact Jan Cossitt at 1-800-748-1651  
for more information on this exciting  
event.

cost is \$20 for the convention only.

### MAC Registration Form

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Number registering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration form to: WMU  
P. O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Pray this day...

February 19—March 11, 1995

1995 Season of Prayer for Home Missions... a very special time for praying, witnessing, and giving to tell of the greatest love ever expressed... God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him... and how can whosoever believe unless someone tells... let's pray this day... (remember that we include requests from missionaries as they come in; hence, foreign missions requests along with other home missions items.)

Prayer Ministry Office

P. O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904

Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

19 for all the people who accepted the challenge to witness every day for 60 days, and for the people to whom they witnessed	20 for the Regional Innovative Bible Conferences meeting today and tomorrow across our state	21 For Keith Stamps, missionary in Guatemala as he continue recovery from gunshot wounds received in January, as someone attempted to rob him	22 For Keith's parents, Glenna and Stanley, missionaries in Honduras, as Glenna recovers from malaria, and as Stanley continues to improve from recent health problems	23 for Melinda and Russell Kyzar, missionaries in Costa Rica (she is daughter of Guy and Lois Henderson); for God's guidance in knowing the most important things to do among the many possibilities; for unsaved husbands of church members in Granadilla; that their church will be able to begin construction on their new location	24 for the John Hamiltons, missionaries in St. John's, Antigua; that they will be able to clearly discern God's direction for their lives; for the two new churches they will assist in building with 1994 LMCO; for their 13-year-old daughter's schooling while on furlough	25 for the John McCall family, missionaries who have relocated from Burundi to Tanzania; they are beginning six months of Swahili language study near Nairobi, Kenya
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				<b>MARCH</b>		
26 for Nadine and William Waddle, missionaries in Uganda; that they will be safe in their travels there; that they will be able to give the proper witness and help to AIDS victims in Uganda	27 for Margaret and Robert Fortenberry, missionaries in Botswana; for the schools their children attend; for their understanding and retention of the Setswana language - still have three months in language school	28 for churches as they complete plans for The 1995 Season of Home Missions, which includes the activities we'll pray for the next four days	1 that churches will have The Home Mission Study, titled All Things to All People: Reaching the Unchurched Through Holistic Evangelism	2 that people will use materials provided for The Week of Prayer for Home Missions March 5-12 and pray for our missions work in the United States	3 for The Home Missions Day in Sunday School on March 12 when there is an emphasis on missions work in our country	4 for generosity of Mississippi Baptists in giving to The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

## Patterns for Success: MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SECRETARIES CONFERENCE

On April 17 and 18, the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, will sponsor the annual **Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference** at Camp Garaywa, Clinton. Secretaries from all over the state are invited to this two day event, which will offer training and fellowship to enlighten and uplift. Conferences will offer training from polishing basic skills, to learning specialized tasks, to enjoying interesting hobbies. Some of the conferences include: *Being the Only Secretary, Basics of Wills and Estate Planning and Beginning Calligraphy.*

The conference begins Monday morning with registration at 10 a.m. and concludes Tuesday afternoon with a closing session at 2:30 p.m.

On Monday night, plan to attend the banquet at 6:30 p.m. Special music will be brought by the Beasley family of FBC, Crystal Springs, and guest speaker will be Howell Todd, president of Mississippi College.

For more information, call Anne Martin at 1-800-748-1651. She will be glad to talk with you about the conference, or send you further material.

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SENIOR ADULT CHOIR FESTIVAL

First Baptist Church • Jackson  
March 14, 1995

### SCHEDULE

#### GROUP I

- 8:30 a.m. .... Registration
- 9:00 a.m. .... Festival Begins
- 12:00 p.m. .... Festival Ends  
(Lunch on your own.)

#### GROUP II

- 12:30 p.m. .... Registration  
(Lunch will not be provided)
- 1:00 p.m. .... Festival Begins
- 3:30 p.m. .... Festival Ends

### REGISTRATION

Registration for the Senior Adult Choir Festival must be made by **March 1, 1995**. There is a registration fee of \$1.00 per person. Contact Charlotte at 1-800-748-1651 with Church Music Department for more information.

# GULFSHORE EXTRAVAGANZA

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!!!!

# Grandparenting by Grace

1995  
Senior Adult  
Retreats  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

**May 18-20**

**Irene Endicott**, Author of "Grandparenting by Grace"  
**Keith Bennett**, Music Leader, FBC, Greenwood  
**Levon Moore**, Speaker

**May 22-24**  
**Irene Endicott**, Author of "Grandparenting by Grace"  
**Hugh Plunkett**, Music Leader, Clarksdale BC  
**Levon Moore**, Speaker

**May 25-27**  
**Dennis Lyle**, Senior Adult Specialist, BSSB  
**Jerry Peagler**, Music Leader, FBC, Raleigh  
**Levon Moore**, Speaker

"The best grandparenting university is God's Holy Word and each other." While **Grandparenting by Grace** is targeted toward grandparents, it will be helpful to any senior adult. Its focus is upon improving relationships. All of us need to improve our relationships with ourselves, our friends and our family.

You will love the presentation style of Irene Endicott and Dennis Lyle. Time will fly as we discover new ways to think and to act in our significant relationships.

It is the prayer of Discipleship and Family Ministry

Department that every church can offer the course of study, **Grandparenting by Grace**. Grandparents and senior adults of all ages will enjoy the study.

For more information on this conference or the material **Grandparenting by Grace**, contact Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651.

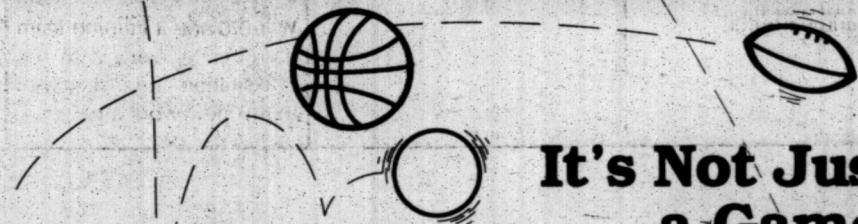
*A ministry of your Cooperative Program*

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD  
 Bill Causey, Executive Director/Treasurer  
 Eugene Dobbs, Admin. Assistant for Ministry

DISCIPLESHIP & FAMILY MINISTRY DEPARTMENT  
 Mose Dangerfield, Director

*"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"*

# PLAY BALL:



**It's Not Just  
a Game.**

## GULFSHORE YOUTH CONFERENCES 1995

**MUSICIANS:** Conferences I-III Michael Passons, Nashville  
 Conferences IV-VI Mack and Shayla Blake, Ruston, La.  
 (all are contemporary Christian artists)

### DATES AND SPEAKERS:

Conference I	May 29 - June 2
Conference II	June 2 - 6
Conference III	June 6 - 10
Conference IV	June 10 - 14
Conference V	June 15 - 19
Conference VI	June 19 - 23

**COST:** \$122 per person

**REGISTRATION:** Beginning on March 1, 1995, registration should be sent to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

For program information contact Sean Keith or Jim Didlake, 968-3800.  
 For registration information contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 452-7261.

# Family Retreat



**July 3-6, 1995**

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
*Family events for all ages*

Bring grandparents and senior adults  
 for this experience.

## FREE TIME FOR FAMILIES

**—Afternoons and all day Wednesday**

*A Ministry of Your Cooperative Program*

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD  
 Bill Causey, Executive Director/Treasurer  
 Eugene Dobbs, Administrative Assistant for Ministry

DISCIPLESHIP & FAMILY MINISTRY DEPARTMENT  
 Mose D. Dangerfield, Director

*"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"*

Pastors or staff who bring 3 families get 1 adult expenses paid! For more information call Discipleship and Family Ministry, 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800

# Going Where The People Are

A Conference Providing New Frontiers in Bible Study For the 21st Century

Here is an innovative conference you will not want to miss! Help your church explore new dimensions for providing Bible study groups  
BEYOND THE FOUR WALLS OF YOUR CHURCH BUILDING.

Date: **February 20-21, 1995**

Locations:

Trinity Baptist Church, Southaven  
Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo  
Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson  
Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg  
Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale  
First Baptist Church, Meridian

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY: FEBRUARY 20, 1995**

10:00-10:30	General Session
10:30-12:00	Conference Track 1 Lunch
1:30-3:00	Conference Track 2
3:00-3:30	Break
3:30-4:45	Conference Track 3
7:00-9:00	SUPPER ON YOUR OWN Music-Testimonies-Video Presentation-Inspiration

**TUESDAY: FEBRUARY 21, 1995**

8:30-10:00	Conference Track 4
10:00-10:30	Break
10:30-12:00	Conference Track 5
12:00	Dismiss

**CONFERENCE TRACKS:**

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** Pastors, Staff, SS Directors, Outreach Leaders, Deacons, SS Directors or teachers interested in providing new Bible studies, potential Bible study leaders, Discipleship Training Directors.



Sponsored jointly by

**Bible Study Team and the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.**

Contact the Sunday School Dept., MBCB, at 1-800-748-1651 for more information on cost and registration.

## VOLUNTEER & PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE



**RICHARD ROSS,**  
Consultant,  
Youth Ministry, Baptist  
Sunday School Board,  
Nashville

**"Coordinating a Full-time Youth Program When You're Not Fulltime"**

Volunteer and part-time persons who work with youth ministry in the smaller membership church.

Participants will discover basic principles that can lead to a balanced, comprehensive, and effective youth ministry in the smaller membership church.

There is no cost for attending this conference. Please contact Anne Martin at 1-800-748-1651 for more information on this conference.

**March 17, 1995**  
Scott Association Office, Forest;  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
**March 18, 1995**  
38th Avenue Baptist Church, Hattiesburg;  
9:30 a.m. - Noon



### IN CONCERT

PETAL-HARVEY BC • PETAL

FEBRUARY 19 • 7 P.M.

DIRECTED BY L. GRAHAM SMITH

DIRECTOR, CHURCH MUSIC DEPT.,  
MBCB

### ONE VOICE ...

is an auditioned

ensemble made up of men

and women across Mississippi

who have come together,

uniting gifts and efforts, for the specific purpose of praising Jesus Christ and proclaiming his gospel through the areas of music and drama.

They have been organized for eight years, and have sung throughout the state, at the National Drama Festival, Nashville, and are making plans to sing at the Alaska State Convention in August.

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ALL-STATE YOUTH CHOIR Auditions

### February 6-28, 1995

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. weekdays

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Saturdays

For 9th - 12th Graders

- **February 6**—North Oxford BC, Oxford
- **February 7**—Harrisburg BC, Tupelo
- **February 9**—FBC, Starkville
- **February 11**—Baptist Building, Jackson
- **February 16**—FBC, Biloxi
- **February 17**—Central BC, McComb
- **February 18**—University BC, Hattiesburg
- **February 20**—FBC, Leland
- **February 28**—Baptist Building, Jackson

#### Auditions will include

- A solo (no tapes)
- Sight-reading
- Tonal Memory
- Singing their voice part from a hymn

**Audition Fee:** \$3.00 per person

Contact Charlotte Bass at 1-800-748-1651 for registration information.

# HOUSE TOPS

# State Evangelism Conference focuses on revival, witnessing

The Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference was held Jan. 30-31 at Temple Church in Hattiesburg. Over a thousand pastors, staff members, and lay persons attended.

J. Garland McKee, evangelism director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presided over the two-day conference. Music was conducted by R.O. Stone and his wife Angie of Rome, Ga.

Robert E. Naylor, president emeritus of Southwestern Seminary, spoke on "How Lost is Lost?" emphasizing that lost was enough to bring Christ to this world, to take him to Calvary to provide a way for man to be saved.

Kenny Digby delivered a powerful message on the "Testimony of the Tabernacle," declaring it to be designed by God's pattern, donated



**B.J. Jenkins of Kosciusko**, music evangelist, provided musical interludes during the 1995 state evangelism conference Jan. 30-31 at Temple Church in Hattiesburg.

by God's people, dedicated by the Holy Spirit, and destined for the promised land. Digby is an evangelist from Fulton.

Ralph West, black pastor of Brookhollow Church in Houston, Texas, thrilled the congregation with the lesson of blind Bartimaeus. He said there are other kinds of blindness worse than the physical handicap.

Darrell Robinson, evangelism director of the Home Mission Board, gave the implementation of

**Luke  
Garrett  
in concert**  
Feb. 18  
7 p.m.



First Baptist Church  
1607 Cherry St.  
Vicksburg, Miss.  
Tickets: \$3 advance,  
\$4 at the door  
Available at Christian Books and  
Music (638-8015)  
or FBC (636-2493)

*Funeral costs are rising — Do you have the protection your family needs?*

## Our Plan Offers:

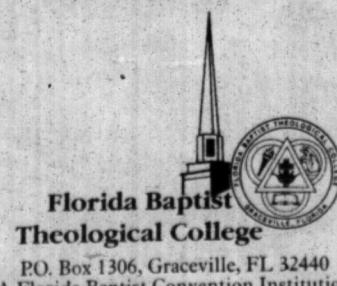
Up to \$10,000 of immediate whole life insurance  
Protection to help cover your final expenses. No Medical  
Exams required. (Ages 0-85 may apply)  
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*Into all the World...*

## Prepare For Ministry

Florida Baptist Theological College is a Bible based, evangelistic institution of higher learning. If God has called you please call us.

**1-800-328-2660**



the "Here's Hope" campaign.

Joe Brown, pastor of Hickory Grove in Charlotte, N.C., said the church is worth cherishing and that believers are to preach the word, pray, and sow the seed.

Angel Martinez, 73-year-old evangelist, spoke on the 23rd Psalm and how to be happy in a difficult world.

J. Gilman McKee, pastor of West Plains, Mo., and son of Garland and June McKee, spoke on the rescue of our mission. He said that 95% of all lost people will never attend a church.

"We need to leave our comfort zone for the battle zone," and share Jesus now, he said.

Mickey Dalrymple, pastor of Fairview Church in Columbus, brought a forceful message on Elijah and Elisha.

"Repentance and revival are our only hope," said Dalrymple.

Jim Ponder, evangelist of Orlando, Fla., had the closing message of the conference. "Revival is the time when God visits his people," said Ponder.

The 60 days of witnessing to the lost (Jan. 9-Mar. 9) and the Simultaneous Harvest Revivals (Mar. 12-June 9) were urged to be a part of every church and every Christian.

Thursday, February 9, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



**The Stone Brothers of Huntsville, Ala.**, displayed their vocal and instrumental musical talents at the 1995 state evangelism conference Jan. 30-31 at Temple Church in Hattiesburg. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Music plays great role at state evangelism conference

The Evangelism Conference was blessed in having well-trained and dedicated musicians singing at each session.

The Stone Brothers of Huntsville, Ala. (Randy, Rodney, and Ricky), children of R.O. and Angie Stone, sang "How Great Thou Art" and "God Give Us Mercy." Luke Garrett of Jackson was a crowd favorite. He, along with Steve Odom and Mike Har-

land of Crossgates Church, Brandon, thrilled the crowd with "I Have Seen the Light" and "Then Came the Morning."

B.J. Jenkins of Kosciusko stirred the conference with "The Old Lighthouse" and "Two Son/Suns Arose that Day, but Only One Went Down." She expressed the hope of many in singing, "I Feel Like Something Good is About to Happen." — GH

## Bee stings kill missionary kid in Panama

PANAMA CITY, Panama (BP) — Andrew Nicholson, 14-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries to Panama, died Jan. 28 from stings of a swarm of African killer bees that drove him over a cliff in Panama's Chame Mountains.

Nicholson and classmate Andrew Scoble, 16, were climbing in the mountains during an annual camping trip sponsored by their school. Nicholson's parents are

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Jackson 957-3762**

**What is true Revival and Spiritual Awakening?**  
**Is God ready to "do it again?"**  
**How can we prepare for Revival?**  
These questions and others are answered in the

incredible story of the

### Asbury College Revival

(See this eye-witness account of a genuine visitation of God upon a college campus in 1970, and which greatly impacted Southern Baptists)

For more information, contact **Revival Now Ministries**,

A ministry of

### CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH,

1309 Church St. COLUMBIA, MS 39249

(phone: 601-746-6336 or FAX 736-9456)



### Steeple & Baptisteries

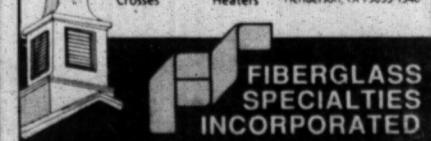
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Henderson, TX 75653-1340



# Just for the Record

Tylertown Church, Tylertown, will host "James L. Sullivan Day" on Feb. 19, to honor the former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Sullivan, Tylertown native, will lead the morning worship service beginning at 11 a.m., and a question-and-answer period from 1-3 p.m. Dinner on the grounds will be held at noon. David Sellers is pastor. For more information, call the church at (601) 876-3436.

Alcorn Association will host a conference for church media librarians at its building in Corinth on Feb. 18, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Stephen Gateley, consultant in the church media library program of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will lead the conference on the Dewey decimal system and Sears subject headings. Lunch will be provided, but registrations must be made. For more information, contact the association at (601) 286-8215.

**Southern Baptist pastors, seminary professors, and missionaries** may receive free copies of **Founders Journal**, a quarterly publication advocating Southern Baptists' roots in a theological system commonly known as Calvinism. The journal's editor, Tom Ascol, said 60,000 copies of a special-issue are being distributed in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention's founding.

First Church, Sumrall, will hold a Bible Conference, Feb. 19-24. The times are 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday and Mon.-Fri. at 7 p.m. The Bible teacher will be Lehman Strass of Escondido, Calif. Glenn Davis is pastor.

## Homecomings

**Lake Harbor, Brandon:** Feb. 12; 24th year; worship, 8:30 and 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m.; James Pugh, founder, guest speaker; Billy Beavers, former music director; Elizabeth Johnson, Charlotte Bass, music; lunch in fellowship hall; James Edwards, pastor.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**RATE:** 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

**BAPTISTRY/BATHTUB REPAIR.** Porcelain or fiberglass. No job too large or small. Statewide service. No mileage charge. K&K Bathtub Repair, 118 S. McCrary Rd., Columbus, MS 39702; 1-800-349-2882.

**CHOIR ROBES** & accessories, pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. **MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes**, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Jackson area (601) 825-1317, statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

The Mississippi Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect will be held April 13 and 14 at the Coliseum Ramada Inn, Jackson. For more information call (601) 969-1995.

First Church, Booneville, has shared a love offering of \$1,746.34 with First Church of San Fernando, Trinidad, W.I. John Jacobs, emeritus missionary living in Booneville, promoted the offering, sent through the Foreign Mission Board.

Mississippi College Department of Art presents its faculty exhibition on display Feb. 1-27 at the Arbor in Deposit Guaranty Plaza, downtown Jackson. Paintings and prints by Sam Gore, Steve Glaze, Steve Cook, Kenneth Quinn, and Kerry Paige will be featured. Sculpture and pottery by Steve and Ruth Glaze will be exhibited in the Mississippi College Downtown Services Offices, also in Deposit Guaranty Plaza. Viewing hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

## Staff Changes

Prentiss Church, Prentiss, has called Randall Rich as pastor effective Jan. 22. A native of Birmingham, Ala., he received his education at Samford University, New Orleans Seminary, and Southern Seminary. He previously served Woolmarket Church, Biloxi; Trinity Church, Vicksburg, and Rich Galilee Church, Gloster.



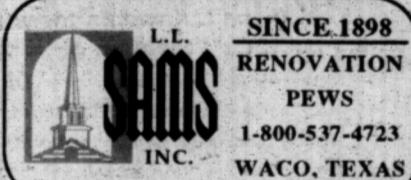
Briarwood Church, Meridian, has called David Chambers as pastor effective Feb. 5. A native of Alabama, he is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He was previously pastor at Calvary Church, Tylertown. He and his family were honored with a reception and pounding on Jan. 29.

First Church, Belzoni, has called Tom McLaughlin as interim pastor effective Jan. 1. A native of Orlando, Fla., he is Baptist Student Union director at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead.

## Lottie Moon Gifts

New Zion Church, Crystal Springs, exceeded its offering goal of \$7,000 by holding an "All the way in One Day" march for missions Dec. 4, collecting \$7,815.35. The church's total offering was \$8,202.83. Leroy Brewer Jr. is pastor.

Arkadelphia Church (Lauderdale) received a \$5,000 memorial gift in honor of longtime WMU director Clairee Stephens. The church itself collected \$926, for a total of \$5,926, the largest offering in the church's history. William "Butch" Knight is pastor.



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## Mississippi writers make headlines in various forms

Congratulations and appreciation to:

**Dean Register**, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, is writer of the Bible Background this quarter for Life and Work (*Ventures and Pursuits*) on studies in Mark's gospel.

**Terry Cutrer** of First Church, Baldwin, and **Bill Kent** of Providence Church, Meadville, have contributed articles to **The Lord's Supper Manual**, edited by **Gerald R. Steffy**. It has "timely and beneficial" suggestions for making the Lord's Supper more meaningful.

**Greg Potts**, pastor at First Church, Vancleave, wrote the article on "Finding and Fixing the Weak Link in Sunday School," in the **Sunday School Leader**, March '95 issue.

**Ben Carlisle**, Arlington Heights Church in Pascagoula, breaks into "A Funny Thing Happened" in **Church Adventures**, February '95 issue.

**Christy Choyce Colee** of

Quitman wrote "Confessions of a BYW" in **Contempo**, February '95 issue, and **Stuart Calvert** of Ashland wrote the "Prayer Patterns" in the January-March '95 issues of **Contempo**.

**Indy Mitchell Whitten**, retired missionary living in Clinton, wrote "Born to Publish" in **Royal Service**, February '95 issue and "For God and Country" in the December '94 issue.

## Correction

In a Feb. 2 article ("Hundreds of workers sought to help in European crusades," p. 12), **The Baptist Record** published an outdated phone number to contact W.H. "Dub" Jackson Jr., the Foreign Mission Board's crusade coordinator for Europe. Jackson's permanent number after Feb. 14 will be: (915) 677-2500. Volunteers may still contact the FMB's volunteer hot line, (800) 888-8657.

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# Uniform Experiencing rejection



By Greg Potts  
Matthew 26

Rejection is a painful experience. Children experience rejection when innocently selecting teams on the playground at school. If unfortunate enough to be chosen last, a child may feel the pain of rejection.

Teenagers experience rejection when they are not chosen for the cheerleading squad, or they are cut from the basketball team, or they do not place in the beauty pageant.

Adults even experience rejection. Suppose you learn that some "close" friends had a party or social or went out to eat without inviting you. You feel rejected. Rejection is painful.

Our Lord experienced rejection. In our text, we find the account of our Lord's trial.

**The rejection of the council (v. 57).** The Sanhedrin was the supreme court of the Jews. It was composed of Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and elders of the people. It numbered 71 members and it was presided over by the high priest (Barclay, p. 353). It had legislative, executive, and judiciary functions.

For a trial such as this, a quorum was 23. All criminal cases were tried and completed during the daytime. By holding the trial at night, the Sanhedrin violated its own rules. This group of Jewish leaders were teachers of the law. Yet, they clearly broke the law and rejected the one who was to be their Messiah.

**The rejection by Peter (v. 58).** This is probably one of the saddest stories in Scripture. Simon Peter had earlier pledged his loyalty to Jesus. Now, in the moment the Lord needed him, Simon denied that he even knew the Lord.

Have you ever experienced the pain of taking a stand for what is right and none of your friends standing with you? Have you ever made a mistake and, instead of comfort and forgiveness, you receive lectures? Have you ever lost a job and needed help, only to find no one there to help you? If you have, you know a little of what Jesus experienced.

I was talking with a man recently who expressed the pain he had experienced. There was a time when he was doing well financially, but he lost it all. Now, he said, those old friends were nowhere to be found. If you have experienced this rejection, friend, take heart. Jesus felt it also.

**The return of the Lord (v. 64).** The high priest demanded Jesus answer if he were the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus then said, "... Hereafter you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Jesus was speaking of his return. Many have attempted to predict the date of the Lord's return, only to fail. This has led the skeptics of our day to sneer and ridicule Christians for the belief in the second coming of Jesus. However, we can rest assured. Jesus will return to earth.

**The ridicule of the Lord (vv. 65-68).** The high priest accused Jesus of blasphemy, and the council began to spit in Jesus' face, beat him with their fists, and slap him. According to Nelson's Bible Dictionary, blasphemy was the act of cursing, slandering, reviling, or showing contempt or a lack of reverence for God. In the Old Testament, blasphemy was a serious crime punishable by death (Lev. 24:15-16).

There are occasions when we experience verbal abuse because we stand for the Lord. Jesus experienced it also. It is extremely painful to feel rejected. Yet, we receive comfort in knowing our Lord experienced it also. We must understand that, although we experience rejection, God still loves us and will sustain us.

**Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.**

# Bible Book Jeremiah's struggle



By Sylvia Fleming  
Jeremiah 15:10 — 20:18

Jeremiah's humanity showed as he approached God and confessed his weaknesses. He even accused God of having abandoned him. Then, God answered Jeremiah by telling him to repent. God expected Jeremiah to behave in a manner in which he had been telling others to behave. Jeremiah had indulged in self-pity, hated his enemies, and been accusatory to God. Though guilty, these sins are very hard for anyone to acknowledge. Even the greatest theologians are weak and undone when measured by the heavenly standard of God.

God told Jeremiah if he would abide by the word that he had been speaking to his enemies, then God would continue to use him. Jeremiah would have honor as spokesman for God, and he would also be victorious.

There are many lessons that all God's people have to learn. So often when teachers and preachers give others God's Word, a small voice will come, "Do you really believe that? Are you willing to do what you have just taught others they should do?" Standing on the truth of God's Word is not a popular stance to have in any worldly society — whether ancient Jerusalem or modern America.

The simile used in the potter and the clay spoke of God's divine sovereignty. God can take the worst clay and turn it into something good. When God's people begin to conform to the shape of the world, God will smash them, mold them, and reshape them to his own divine pleasure.

Jeremiah complained to God once again (20:7). He accused God of having persuaded him to be the voice of God. Jeremiah's thinking was that since he was weaker than God, certainly God would prevail. Jeremiah was probably remembering his being called by God (1:8). God had told him not to be afraid because he would deliver Jeremiah. Certainly, Jeremiah wanted to know why God was waiting so long for that deliverance. Jeremiah's love for these people seemed to have diminished — suddenly he was ready for God to take vengeance upon them. He did not want God to wait so long to punish his enemies that they would completely destroy him.

Jeremiah's prophetic spirit had separated him from the human companionship and fellowship for which he so longed. He wondered if the "fountain of living waters" had completely dried up. How often those of the human species have wondered about their positions with God. When one takes his eyes off God and puts them on himself or someone else, God seems farther away because sin is separating him from God.

Jeremiah even determined that he would no longer speak for God, but God's words had become such a part of him that his very being was on fire for God. The burning was such that Jeremiah could not keep quiet. He truly had consumed God's Word. He had to speak what was in his heart. The Word of God had become a part of Jeremiah, and it was too tiresome to restrain himself from speaking the holy Word.

Jeremiah finally began to acknowledge God's faithfulness and had the assurance that his persecutors would fall. He had expected to know sorrow, but never shame.

No one ever suffered greater shame than that suffered by Jesus Christ who "... bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isa. 53:12). Anyone who is a child of God has a promise from God: "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you...." (John 15:20).

**Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.**

# Life and Work Spirituality, not religion



By Michael Johnson  
Mark 7

As you plan to attend worship services this Sunday, can you predict what will happen? Can you see the progression of the order of service in your mind? Will the Lord's prayer be said? A responsive reading read? Special music before the sermon? An instrumental duet played while the offering is collected? Can you count on the sermon running 23 minutes? While routine and familiarity can serve us well, Jesus warned about the dangers of simply going through the motions and failing to allow outward activity to impact inner realities.

**Freedom — not form.** As Jesus grew in popularity with the people it seems that the religious authorities became even more determined to discredit him. Because Jesus did not require his disciples to observe Jewish traditions of ceremonial cleanliness, the Pharisees went on the attack.

Originally in the Old Testament, the priests were given specific instructions regarding the proper handling of the sacrifices which involved a prescribed ritual of cleanliness. In the New Testament world Jews came into frequent contact with Gentiles (non-Jews) who were basically regarded to be unclean. Jewish tradition therefore evolved which dictated that all people would wash their hands frequently, not only for physical cleanliness, but also to avoid the possibility of ceremonial contamination that would come about through casual contact with the Gentiles.

**Heart — not mouth.** When Jesus is attacked for not following this tradition the Lord points out that the traditions had in reality lost all spiritual significance and more specifically had become nothing short of utter hypocrisy. This was a stunning criticism since the Pharisees prided themselves on being strict observers of God's commandments. Slavish devotion to form, however, can often lead to inflexibility and a hardness of heart.

The story is told of a Muslim who was pursuing a man with upraised knife to murder him. Just then the call to prayer rang out. Immediately he stopped, spread out his prayer mat, knelt, said his prayer as fast as he could, and then rose and continued his murderous pursuit. Prayer for him was simply a brief interlude completely divorced from the activity of the moment. Could it be that we are all guilty of similar actions to some degree?

**Divine commands — not human rules.** The law rightly dictated that man must put God first in the stewardship of his possessions. In fact, a man could declare a portion of his wealth to be "corban" which meant "holy unto God." This portion would go to the priests for temple services.

The Pharisees, over time, had taken this divine command and corrupted it by hiding behind it so that one could escape family responsibilities. Instead of caring for aged parents (one of the ten commandments), a man would simply declare that this could not be done since he had designated his money for God. Oftentimes this was a sham since the money was never given to the priests.

Here Jesus directs our attention to the spiritual truth. Defilement is not a physical matter; it is a matter of the heart. True religion is not found in outward conformity but through the inward motivation that directs one's actions.

How often do we judge and classify people based on outward appearance when in fact the inward qualities are overlooked and ignored?

**Internal motives — not external actions.** While Jesus' words in verse 15 do not seem revolutionary today, they in fact turned the Pharisees on their ears! Even a casual reading of the Old Testament reveals the strict dietary laws which were observed. Their own recent history, during the interbiblical period, taught that thousands of Jews chose death rather than eat the pork that was demanded by King Antiochus Epiphanes. Hence in one sentence, Jesus had wiped out much that had been held sacred by so many for so long.

Jesus was getting to the real issue: it is what is found in a person's heart that determines one's actions and those actions ultimately pronounce defilement or cleanliness. This determines our true spirituality. May we all subject our hearts to an honest self-examination.

**Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.**

# capsules

**CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIANS SHOULD OPPOSE SCHOOL-PRAYER AMENDMENT, WRITER SAYS:** WASHINGTON (ABP) — Perhaps more than any other group, conservative evangelical Christians should oppose a constitutional amendment to restore state-sponsored prayer in public schools, a representative of a conservative public-policy organization says. Because evangelical Christians historically have given much attention to doctrinal matters, they ought to be among those most wary of promoting generic prayers in public education, said Joe Loconte, deputy editor of *Policy Review*, quarterly journal of The Heritage Foundation, a conservative public-policy organization based in Washington. "Vacuous prayers can hardly undo prejudices against faith... [but] likely would blunt the edges of some of Christianity's harder truth claims," he said. Another common argument for school prayer pleads for "civil order," insisting the recovery of school prayer will reverse alarming societal trends such as teen pregnancy. Many religious conservatives disagree with that view, he said, and some argue it promotes a low view of prayer. Instead of resorting to an unworkable state-sponsored prayer, religious believers should avail themselves of the "legal tools already open to them," Loconte said. First, evangelical Christians can try to reintroduce the religious dimension of American life in school curricula. Teaching about religion in the classroom is permissible, he said, and some groups already promote teaching about religion in the classroom.

**NOMINEE'S POLICIES SIMILAR TO ELDERS', PRO-LIFERS CHARGE:** WASHINGTON (BP) — President Bill Clinton apparently has chosen a much less combative medical professional to replace fired Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, but pro-life leaders charged only his tone is different, not his policies. Henry Foster, 61, is Clinton's choice as the next surgeon general, the president announced Feb. 2. Foster, an obstetrician/gynecologist and educator at a medical school in Nashville, has been honored for his successful efforts against teen pregnancy in Nashville. His program promoted postponement of sexual activity but also distributed condoms, according to news reports. Foster also has performed abortions, a White House official confirmed, according to *The Washington Times*. He also has been affiliated with a leading abortion rights organization. While Foster apparently is not as outspoken as Elders, pro-life organizations promised opposition to attempts to approve his nomination in the U.S. Senate.

**AIDS: STILL A TOUCHY SUBJECT IN THE CHURCH:** WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — It was the longest two weeks in his life. And when the call finally came, the doctor uttered the words he had feared: "It's positive." "I knew then," Michael said, "the party was over." Diagnosed with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in 1987, Michael said his friends ask him how he can talk publicly about his disease. He tells them: "It's a part of my life now. The story has to be told." Michael joined two other young men, also HIV-positive, in a panel discussion Jan. 30 during a conference sponsored by the Baptist AIDS Partnership of North Carolina (BAPNC) and Southeastern Seminary. Two million people in the U.S. have HIV; 75% of them do not know they have it, said Eric Raddatz, BAPNC executive director, during the third annual AIDS conference on Southeastern's Wake Forest, N.C., campus. The people who are now turning up with full-blown AIDS contracted the disease in the mid-'80s. "God is not overwhelmed by this disease," said Paul Carlisle. "We are called to care. God is called to cure. We cannot care for the AIDS patient by trying to repair all the damage."

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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LBTNTZINT LBIM DNL VCTRKMXDGST, I EDC, UBXITYTN LBIM DNL LBDL QMOATXL: ZIN UBTNTVC LBIM QMOATXL DCILBTN, LBIM KIC- OTECTXL LBJXTSZ; ZIN LBIM LBDL QMOATXL OITXL LBT XDET LBVCAX.

NIEDCX LUI: ICT

This week's clue: L Equals T.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Titus One: Fifteen.

# Florida Convention-HMB budget talks "profitable," Sullivan says

LEESBURG, Fla. (ABP) — Discussions prompted by a proposal to alter the relationship between the Florida Convention and the Home Mission Board will likely result in concessions that will cut down on paperwork and give the state more clout in obtaining funds for missions work, leaders learned Jan. 20.

A recent meeting with Home Mission Board officials was "profitable," said Executive Director John Sullivan in a report to the State Board of Missions. Together the two entities are "hammering out an addendum to the Cooperative Agreement," which spells out how the two agencies conduct missions in Florida, he said.

Last August, Florida's state budget and allocation committee proposed effectively removing the Home Mission Board from mis-

sions work in the state. Instead of sending about \$1.9 million to the Home Mission Board and getting about \$1.3 million of it back to fund HMB-approved projects in the state, the proposal called for Florida to send only the \$600,000 difference to Atlanta and to assume responsibility for the state's total missions program without oversight from the national agency.

In September the Florida state board agreed to postpone action on the plan at the request of a committee that is studying the structure and programs of the SBC. The structure committee is scheduled to bring a recommendation to the SBC Executive Committee when it meets in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 20-22.

State-sponsored initiatives to alter traditional denominational

relationships, such as efforts in some states to redesign the Cooperative Program unified budgeting process, carry a risk, said HMB President Larry Lewis.

"These folks need to remember something: just as SBC national ministries don't have any (operating) money besides what the states send us, so the states don't have any but what the churches send them," Lewis said.

"If a state convention redesigns the Cooperative Program concept to be unacceptable to a church, it's just a short little step for the church to say, 'Hey, we're going to determine how much of our money goes to the SBC and how much goes to the state.'" That could lead congregations to reduce or eliminate giving to the state convention and send more of their money directly to the SBC, Lewis said.

## HMB notes varied response to Here's Hope

ATLANTA (BP) — As Southern Baptists witness during "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now," Darrell Robinson says they will encounter five levels of spiritual development among non-Christians.

Robinson, Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism, said

people can move from any level to the point of accepting Christ in one visit. But for some people, reaching the point of making a profession of faith may take several contacts.

The five levels and the responses Robinson recommends are:

### Quips and Quotes....

### Overheard at the state evangelism conference

"The smallest deed of kindness is better than the big acts of intention."

"We have a five-year plan coming out every two years."

"The weary evangelist: 'Thank God, there will be no suitcases in heaven.'"

"Faulty theology can lead to an unhealthy anthropology."

"If people could see a saint who has been saved, and a Savior who can save, our baptistries would never be dry."

A young preacher admitting his need for college and seminary, said, "I'm just ignorance

on fire."

"Moses lost his resume' in the backside of the desert."

"It's not how many servants you have but how many people you have served."

"You don't have to count sheep at night when you can talk to the Shepherd."

"If you stop believing in Santa Claus, do you stop getting presents?" asked a 6-year-old boy. "As long as your mother and father still believe," confidently replied an 8-year-old girl, "you don't have a thing to worry about."

1) Ignorant. They know nothing about the gospel and they must be taught.

2) Indifferent. They've heard the gospel story, but they are apathetic toward it. They must be stirred to make a response.

3) Hostile. They've heard and rejected the gospel and are antagonistic. Christians witnessing to hostile people should respond in love, Robinson said. Rather than reacting to their anger, be a good listener.

4) Interested. They've heard about the gospel and want to know more. They must be cultivated to reach a point of accepting Christ.

5) Ready. They've heard the gospel, and they want to accept Christ immediately. Christians need to lead them in a prayer to repent of their sins, ask forgiveness, and invite Christ to be their Savior and Lord.

"Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" is Southern Baptists' first simultaneous witnessing effort. Christians are asked to share Christ with one person a day through March 9. The individual witnessing effort will be followed by simultaneous revivals.



**Darrell Robinson** (left), vice president of evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, chats Jan. 30 with Robert Naylor, president emeritus of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, between sessions at the 1995 state evangelism conference at Temple Church in Hattiesburg. See related stories on page 5. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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